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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" No orders in the terms specified in the Legislative Assembly question have been issued by the Government, but orders were issued in G.O. Ms. No. 1612, Home, dated 15th May 1953, fixing Rs. 2 as the fee leviable for a licence for the use of sound amplifiers. A copy [a] of the Government Order is placed on the table of the House. This small fee was prescribed for the purpose of regulating the use of sound amplifiers and to cover the expenditure to Government in dealing with applications for licences."

Licence fee for mikes.

* 380 *Q*.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have recently passed orders to the effect that a fee of Rs. 2 be paid for permission to use microphone in municipalities and panchayats and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" The Member is referred to the answer given to Legislative Assembly question No. 379 (starred) put by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that it is very difficult to get licences from the Assistant Superintendents of Police, who sometimes reside in far-off places and in view of the fact that collection of two rupees is unjustified and also stifles freedom of expression on the part of the people, will the Government reconsider the whole matter and cancel the licence fee? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Many points of view have been put forward by the hon. Member. But one point of view is important and that is that there should be no conflict between the various sections of the people using amplifiers. Sometimes it happens that two parties want to hold meetings at the same place and time using sound amplifiers. That has got to be regulated and in doing so, we have to authorize the person having sufficient authority to issue these licences. The fee that is collected, viz., two rupees, goes to meet the bare expenses involved in issuing licences."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that in certain places—and I can speak with authority as far as the Chirakkal taluk is concerned—public meetings and other functions are held in the interior of the town, that the police officers reside at distant places, that, therefore, it is difficult to obtain licences in time—invariably it is not until after the function is over—and that it is a curtailment of the right of the people to hear and to be heard? Will the Government reconsider the matter in view of these difficulties?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If any hard cases are brought to my notice, I shall consider them."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 371–378 infra.

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Is the fee collected also in cases of educational and cultural programmes? If it is so, will the Government consider the question of cancelling this fee in such cases? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is rather difficult to distinguish between cultural and educational programmes and the rest. Very often it may be said to be cultural or educational but actually it will be a political programme. These programmes go in various disguises and one such is cultural and educational. If there are real cases of educational or cultural programmes, we will consider them."

Sri B. K. NALLASWAMI :—" Sir, in view of the fact that only Deputy Superintendents of Police are authorized to issue licences and that consequently it is found very difficult to obtain licences at short notice as the officers are living in far-off places from the town and as they are likely to be on tour sometimes, will the Government consider the question of authorizing Inspectors of Police to issue such licences? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is what I referred to when I replied to another hon. Member's question. We will take into consideration all hard cases when they are brought to our notice and see what can be done."

Sri P. VENKATESHA SHOLAGAR :—" அனாவசியமான கூட்டத்தைத் தடுப்பதற்கா, அல்லது அதிகமாக கூட்டங்கள் நடைபெறாமல் இருப்பதற்கா, அல்லது வரி வசூலிக்கவேண்டும் என்ற ஒரே நோக்கத்துடன்தானா இந்த வரி வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறதென்று கேட்கிறேன் ? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We do not get much of money from this levy. Our anxiety is that there should be no clash between two enthusiastic parties holding meetings using amplifiers at the same place and at the same time. Clashes have occurred on many occasions and, therefore, it has been found necessary to regulate the use of amplifiers. So, these regulations have been brought into force."

Sri S. C. C. ANTHONI PILLAI :—" If this question operates meetings can be held only after obtaining police permission. Will the Government therefore consider the feasibility of allowing the same authority as the police to issue licences simultaneously for using sound amplifiers instead of asking the organizers of the meetings to go to different authorities to get different licences? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am concerned only with the licence to be issued by the Police authorities. If there is any difficulty with regard to other licences necessary perhaps in the City of Madras, a separate question may be put."

Sri T. K. RAMA :—" ஏகாதசி, பெரிய கார்த்திகை முதலிய ஹிந்துக்களுடைய உத்சவங்களுக்குக் கூட மைக் லைஸன்ஸ் கொடுப்பது இல்லையென்று அறிகிறேன். அப்படி தடுத்திருந்தால், அவ்விதம் தடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று மந்திரி ஜில்லா போலீஸ் உத்யோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு அறிக்கை விடுவாரா ? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" On the representation of the hon. Member, we have issued orders that the Police authorities should be more liberal in issuing licences on festive occasions as referred to by him. But we have also to take into account the nuisance caused by these sound amplifiers to the other members of the public who want to have a quiet night time and quiet sleep. Therefore, we have to enforce a certain amount of regulation."

SRI D. K. RAJU :—" In view of the nuisance created in towns and obstruction caused to the traffic by these sound amplifiers, will the Government think of restricting the issue of such licences in future? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am glad the hon. Member has at last brought out an important point in the general debate, so to say. The air is free, the world is free and everybody is entitled to these. Still one man should not take too much of any of these things to the detriment of the peace and comforts of others. It would be wrong. Hence a certain amount of mutual restriction is necessary. Who can impose it except the Government through its officers? "

MR. SPEAKER :—(*ஸ்ரீ ஆர். குப்புசாமியைப் பார்த்து*) " *நீங்கள் எதற்காக நிற்கிறீர்கள் ?* "

SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI :—" *நான் லேட்டாக வந்தேன். தயவு செய்து என்னுடைய 374-ஆவது கேள்வியை மறுபடியும் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.*"

MR. SPEAKER :—" *கேள்வி நேரக் கடைசியில் உங்கள் கேள்வியை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.*"

Report on the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education.

* 381 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Expert Committee has submitted its report on the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The report has already been placed on the table of the House."

Report on the Modified Scheme of Education.

* 382 *Q.*—SRI M. PALANIYANDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state when will the report of the Special Committee to enquire into the recent Elementary Education Scheme be available for the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 381."